

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
FOI/PA
DELETED PAGE INFORMATION SHEET
FOI/PA# 1363650-0

Total Deleted Page(s) = 6
Page 6 ~ Referral/Direct;
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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
FOI/PA
DELETED PAGE INFORMATION SHEET
FOI/PA# 1213359-0

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039

1 1

5/3/82

UNCLAS E F T O

ROUTINE

mt
FM DIRECTOR FBI

TO LEGAL ATTACHE ROME (92-803) ROUTINE 1

BT

UNCLAS E F T O

ROBERTO CALVI; REI

RE ROME AIRTEL OF 6/17/81 CAPTIONED, "LA COSA NOSTRA, REI."

FBIHQ HAS REVIEWED REFERENCED AIRTEL AS IT PERTAINS TO ROBERTO CALVI. IT APPEARS HE MIGHT BE A KEY TO THE GROWING INTEREST IN INTERNATIONAL MONEY LAUNDERING. LEGAT SHOULD RECONTACT ITALIAN AUTHORITIES AND DETERMINE WHAT, IF ANY, CURRENT INFORMATION EXIST. IF INFORMATION EXISTS, TASK CONTINENTAL OFFICES APPROPRIATELY WITH LEADS.

BT

1

cm
1 [redacted]

AGR:KAK (2)
Kak

5/3/82

3028/6

5716

DE-89

92-19284-1

1 MAY 6 1982

68 MAY 21 1982

[redacted]

b6
b7c

R 271646Z MAY 82

FM ROME (92-80) (P)

TO DIRECTOR ROUTINE 341-27

BT

UNCLAS E F T O

ROBERTO CALVI, REI.

RE BUREAU TELETYPE DATED MAY 4, 1982.

ON MAY 13, 1982, ASSISTANT LEGAL ATTACHE [REDACTED]
MET WITH MILAN, ITALY, INVESTIGATING MAGISTRATES, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] AND OFFICIALS OF THE [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] WHO ARE KNOWLEDGEABLE CONCERNING ONGOING
INVESTIGATION OF ROBERTO CALVI AND THE AMBROSIANO BANK WHICH
HE CONTROLS.

FOR INFORMATION OF BUREAU, CALVI WAS TRIED IN ITALY FOR
ILLEGAL EXPORTATION OF FUNDS AND WAS CONVICTED AND SENTENCED
TO FOUR YEARS IN PRISON. HE IS CURRENTLY APPEALING THE
CONVICTION.

RECEIVED
TELETYPE UNIT

27 MAY 1982

FEDERAL BUREAU
OF INVESTIGATION

Exec. AD-Adm. ☒
Exec. AD-Inv. ☐
Exec. AD-LES ☐
Asst. Dir.:
Adm. Servs. ☒
Crim. Inv. ☒
Ident. ☐
Inspection ☐
Intell. ☐
Laboratory ☐
Legal Coun. ☐
Off. of Cong. & Public Affs. ☐
Rec. Mgmt. ☐ b6
Tech. Servs. ☐ b7C
Training ☐ b7D

b7D

1982

PAGE TWO ROM 02-80 UNCLAS E F T O

b7D

LEGAL ATTACHE ROME WILL REMAIN ALERT FOR ANY DEVELOPMENTS
IN THE CALVI INVESTIGATION IN ITALY WHICH LINK HIM TO
ORGANIZED CRIME INTEREST.

BT

THIS IS THE BEST COPY
OR COPIES AVAILABLE

MESSAGE RELAY VIA TELETYPE
(RESTRICTED USE)

7/13/82

Date: _____ PRECEDENCE: ☐ IMMEDIATE ☐ PRIORITY ☒ ROUTINE

FM: DIRECTOR, FBI

TO: WASHINGTON FIELD

- | | |
|---|---|
| ☐ White House/WH/ | ☐ Director National Security Agency/NSA/ |
| ☐ Bureau of Alcohol Tobacco Firearms/BATF/ | ☐ Director Naval Investigative Service/DIRNAVINSERV/ |
| ☐ Central Intelligence Agency/CIA/ | ☐ Drug Enforcement Admin./DEA/ |
| ☐ CIA DCD/DCD/ | ☐ FAA Washington HQ/FAA/ |
| ☐ Dept. of Energy HQS/DOEHQ/ | ☐ HQ AFOSI Bolling AFBDC/AFOSI/ |
| ☐ Dept. of Energy Germantown DIV/DOE/ | ☐ INSCOM Ft. Meade/INSCOM/ |
| ☐ Dept. of Justice/DOJ/ | ☐ Nuclear Regulatory Commission/NRC/ |
| ☐ Dept. of State/DOS/ | ☐ U.S. Customs Service/UCS/ |
| ☐ Dept. of the Army/DA/ | ☐ U.S. Immigration & Naturalization Service/INS/ |
| ☐ Dept. of Treasury/DOT/ | ☐ U.S. Secret Service/USSS/ |
| ☐ Defense Intelligence Agency/DIA/ | ☐ Other: _____ |

BT

Classification: _____

Addressee Internal Distribution

For: _____

Subject: SEE ATTACHED

☐ See Attached

Approved By: 	Originator: RGP:ka ^k	Tele Ext. 5716	Room/Div.: 3028/6	b6 b7C
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DO NOT FILE WITHOUT COMMUNICATIONS STAMP

USE AND PREPARATION OF FORM 0-73

Restrictions on Use

1. Only incoming teletype messages within the categories listed in MIOG Section 16-1.7 pages 1251 & 1252 may be prepared using form 0-73.
2. Use of Form 0-73 is restricted to incoming teletype messages received at FBIHQ Communications Center within the last 72 hours.
3. Addressees must be Bureau Offices (LEGAT/Field) or other Government Agencies. **Geographical location must be indicated if other Government Agency is located outside the Washington, D.C. area.**
4. Editing of message text is restricted to typed or printed changes of a word or two. Changes to the existing text involving more than a word or two will require the originator to initiate a new message using Form 0-93. Administrative data may be added immediately following the text and must be identical for all addressees.
5. Teletype messages received by the Communications Center that do not meet the above criteria shall be returned to the originator for preparation using Form 0-93.

Preparation of 0-73 Form (Yellow)

1. **Date & Precedence** - Type or print date and indicate precedence by checking the appropriate box.
2. **Addressee(s)** - Type or print addressee(s) immediately following the "TO:" or place a check mark in the appropriate box. Note: When using block "Other," indicate geographical location if addressee(s) is located outside Washington, D.C. If addressee(s) is a military installation, the name of the base, fort, or station must be listed to ensure delivery.
3. **Classification** - Type or print the classification and if appropriate the caveat and warning notices.
4. **Addressee Internal Distribution** - Complete when the originator wishes the message to be distributed to a known entity within a Headquarters Agency (i.e. Division, Section, Unit, etc.). List the addressee(s) abbreviation and the internal distribution, i.e. a message to Dept. of State, Dept. of Justice, and Defense Intelligence Agency; list on the "For" line(s) as follows:
Example: For: DOS For SY/TAG; DOJ for Asst. AG Criminal Div.; DIA For DSOP.
Messages which do not list internal distribution shall be delivered to the agency headquarters where their analyst will effect in-house distribution.
5. **Subject** - Type or print the subject in the space provided or check "see attached" if subject is identical to attached message.
6. **Originator's Boxes** - Type or print the originator's name, telephone extension, room number, and division.
7. **Approved By Box** - Indicate approval for transmission by initialing the approved by box. Note: The person approving the message is solely responsible for assuring all necessary editing changes are accurate and are legible.

13 JUL 82
RECEIVED
TELETYPE UNIT
FEDERAL BUREAU
OF INVESTIGATION

Preparation of Message To Be Transmitted

1. **Duplicate Copy & Notations** - Xerox 1 copy of the incoming teletype message. A notation shall be made on the original incoming teletype indicating one copy made for relay to SACS _____, (or LEGATS) _____, (or Government Agencies) _____.
2. **Editing of Duplicate Copy (Heading)** - Using a lead pencil ONLY draw single lines through the first and last lines of the message heading; connect these lines from top right to bottom left forming a "Z" figure. **(Do Not Obliterate the Heading)**
3. **Editing Changes to the Text** - (See Restrictions on Use, item 4)
4. **Administrative Data** - Type or print administrative data immediately following the text.

THIS IS THE BEST COPY
OR COPIES AVAILABLE

RECEIVED
TELETYPE UNIT

12-1235Z JUL 82

12 JUL 82 13 55 JUL

FM ROME (92A-30) (P)

TO DIRECTOR ROUTINE 433-12

FEDERAL BUREAU
OF INVESTIGATION

BT

UNCLAS E F T O

ROBERTO CALVI, PEI.

ON 7/12/82, LEGAL ATTACHE ROME ADVISED THE FOLLOWING:
~~RE ROME TELETYPE DATED JULY 6, 1982.~~

ON JULY 12, 1982, [REDACTED]

b7D

[REDACTED]

IN VIEW OF ABOVE, WFO IS REQUESTED TO DISCONTINUE
REQUESTED INQUIRIES WITH APPRECIATION OF [REDACTED]

ADMINISTRATIVE:

~~RETRANSMIT TO WFO~~

b6
b7C

P-961245Z JUL 82

FM ROME (92A-800) (P)

TO DIRECTOR PRIORITY 422-06

BT

UNCLAS E F T O

ROBERTO CALVI, REI.

RECEIVED
TELETYPE UNIT
6 JUL 82 16 25Z
FEDERAL BUREAU
OF INVESTIGATION

RE ROME TELETYPE DATED JUNE 22, 1982 (NOT RECEIVED BY WFO).

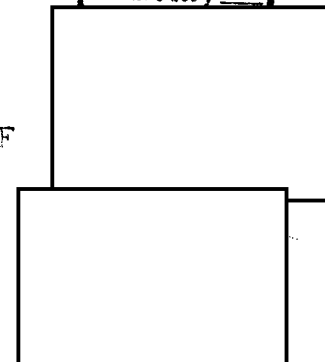
FOR INFORMATION OF WFO, ROBERTO CALVI WAS FOUND DEAD IN THE THAMES RIVER, LONDON, ENGLAND, ON FRIDAY JUNE 18, 1982. CALVI HAD DISAPPEARED FRIDAY, JUNE 11, 1982, FROM HIS ROME, ITALY, RESIDENCE. NO FINAL DETERMINATION HAS BEEN MADE AS TO CAUSE OF DEATH. AT PRESENT TWO THEORIES ABOUND; ONE SUICIDE AND THE OTHER MURDER. AUTOPSY REPORTS HAVE NOT AS YET BEEN RECEIVED BY ITALIAN AUTHORITIES.

ON THURSDAY, JUNE 17, 1982, CALVI'S PERSONAL, PRIVATE SECRETARY TERESA GRAZIELLA CORROCHER WAS KILLED WHEN SHE FELL OUT HER WINDOW. SPECULATION IS THAT SHE COMMITTED SUICIDE.

CALVI'S DISAPPEARANCE AND DEATH TOGETHER WITH THE SUICIDE OF HIS PERSONAL PRIVATE SECRETARY HAS RESULTED IN A GREAT DEAL OF MEDIA INTEREST. IN VIEW OF ALLEGATIONS THAT CALVI MAY HAVE

72 JUL 14 1982

Exec. AD-Adm.	
Exec. AD-Inv.	
Exec. AD-LES	
Asst. Dir.:	
Adm. Serv.	
Crim. Inv.	
Ident.	
Inspection	
Intell.	
Laboratory	
Legal Coun.	
Off. of Cong. & Public Affs.	
Rec. Mgmt.	
Tech. Servs.	
Training	b6
Telephone Rm.	b7C
Director's Sec'y	



Handwritten signature

92-1284-5

SEARCHED
SERIALIZED
INDEXED
FILED

RECEIVED
7/8/82

PAGE TWO POM (92A-80) UNCLAS E F T O

BÉEN INVOLVED IN THE MOVEMENT OF MONIES FOR ORGANIZED CRIME,
THE INVESTIGATION INTO HIS DEATH WILL BE FOLLOWED WITH INTEREST
FOR ANY INFORMATION LINKING CALVI OR HIS AMBROSIANO BANK TO
LCN OR MAFIA INTEREST.

b6
b7C
b7D

REQUEST OF THE BUREAU:

AT THE REQUEST OF BUREAU IS REQUESTED TO CHECK NCIC
FOR RECORD OF STOLEN OR LOST REPORT ON ABOVE WEAPON. SUTEL.

b7D

LEAD:

WFO IS REQUESTED TO CONTACT ALCOHOL, TOBACCO AND FIREARMS
BUREAU (ATFB) IN EFFORTS TO TRACE OWNERSHIP OF ABOVE WEAPON.
SUTEL.

LEGAT POME ATTEMPTING TO ASCERTAIN FURTHER AVAILABLE
PARTICULARS ON WEAPON.

ADMINISTRATIVE:

RETRANSMIT TO WFO.

BT

89

1

1

7/13/82

UNCLAS E F T O

ROUTINE

FM DIRECTOR FBI

TO LEGAL ATTACHE ROME {92A-80} ROUTINE

BT

UNCLAS E F T O

ROBERTO CALVI, REI.

RE LEGAL ATTACHE ROME TELETYPE TO THE BUREAU, 7/6/82.



b7D

BT

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11

1 -



RGF:KAK {2}

7/13/82

3028/6

5716

b6
b7C

92-19284-6

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
COMMUNICATIONS CENTER

59 AUG 5 1982

JUL 14 1982

JUL 22 1982

16

Time Tape
**MESSAGE RELAY VIA TELETYPE
 (RESTRICTED USE)**

Date: 7/8/82 PRECEDENCE: ☐ IMMEDIATE ☐ PRIORITY ☒ ROUTINE

FM: DIRECTOR, FBI

TO: FBI WASHINGTON FIELD

- | | |
|---|---|
| ☐ White House/WH/ | ☐ Director National Security Agency/NSA/ |
| ☐ Bureau of Alcohol Tobacco Firearms/BATF/ | ☐ Director Naval Investigative Service/DIRNAVINSERV/ |
| ☐ Central Intelligence Agency/CIA/ | ☐ Drug Enforcement Admin./DEA/ |
| ☐ CIA DCD/DCD/ | ☐ FAA Washington HQ/FAA/ |
| ☐ Dept. of Energy HQS/DOEHQ/ | ☐ HQ AFOSI Bolling AFBDC/AFOSI/ |
| ☐ Dept. of Energy Germantown DIV/DOE/ | ☐ INSCOM Ft. Meade/INSCOM/ |
| ☐ Dept. of Justice/DOJ/ | ☐ Nuclear Regulatory Commission/NRC/ |
| ☐ Dept. of State/DOS/ | ☐ U.S. Customs Service/UCS/ |
| ☐ Dept. of the Army/DA/ | ☐ U.S. Immigration & Naturalization Service/INS/ |
| ☐ Dept. of Treasury/DOT/ | ☐ U.S. Secret Service/USSS/ |
| ☐ Defense Intelligence Agency/DIA/ | ☐ Other: _____ |

BT

Classification: _____

Addressee Internal Distribution

For: _____

Subject: SEE ATTACHED.

☐ See Attached

Approved By: <i>M</i>	Originator: JWN:KAK	Tele Ext. 5712	Room/Div.: 3036/6
--------------------------	------------------------	-------------------	----------------------

07132w

DO NOT FILE WITHOUT COMMUNICATIONS STAMP

000 8/4/82 (nd)

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RECEIVED
TELETYPE UNIT
8 JUL 82 21 5
FEDERAL BUREAU
OF INVESTIGATION

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OR COPIES AVAILABLE

Exec AD Adm. _____
 Exec AD Inv. _____
 Exec AD LES _____
 Asst. Dir.:
 Adm. Servs. _____
 Crim. Inv. _____
 Ident. _____
 Intell. _____
 Laboratory _____
 Legal Coun. _____
 Plan. & Insp. _____
 Rec. Mgnt. _____
 Tech. Servs. _____
 Training _____
 Off. of Cong. & Public Affs. _____
 Telephone Rm. _____
 Director's Sec'y _____

8/20/82

JUDGE:

RE: MYSTERIOUS DEATH OF BANCO AMBROSIANO
 PRESIDENT ROBERTO CALVI

On 8/16/82, [redacted] passed along the question you had regarding any information we might have in our files relating to Roberto Calvi, former president (deceased) of the Banco Ambrosiano. Your question was in response to an article appearing in "The New York Times" (attached), discussing Calvi's death, a possible \$1.4 billion loss to Banco Ambrosiano, and associated potential liabilities of the Vatican Bank.

Our files show that our Legat in Rome was advised by the Italian authorities that Roberto Calvi was one of several bankers arrested on 5/20/82, on charges brought by the Italian Finance Police of illegally transferring funds abroad. Calvi, a member of the Christian Democratic Party, has been linked by Italian investigators to the Italian P-2 scandal (referring to the latest failure of the Italian Government attributed to a secret Masonic Lodge, the Propaganda-2). Well founded speculation had Calvi using his control of Banco Ambrosiano and numerous holding companies and financial institutions throughout the world for concealment and laundering of organized crime drug related monies. [redacted]

b7D

Michele Sindona was convicted on 6/17/80, on 65 counts of fraud stemming from his operation and ownership of the Franklin National Bank, Huntington, New York, which collapsed in 1974. Sindona misapplied and lost approximately \$45 million of the bank's funds in foreign exchange trading. Newspapers, at the time of the trial, reported that the Vatican lost equivalent funds in similar trading but Marcinkus and two other clerics wanted to provide character witness testimony for Sindona's trial. The Vatican did not permit the proposed testimony. The source of the newspaper material appears to be Sindona's attorney.

7-199-84

5 875 8 1982

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MS

Note to Judge Webster

RE: MYSTERIOUS DEATH OF BANCO AMBROSIANO PRESIDENT ROBERTO CALVI

Archbishop Marcinkus was interviewed at Vatican City on 4/28/73, by the FBI and New York Organized Crime Strike Force and DOJ attorneys regarding fraudulent financial deals. This was one of several interviews concerning Mario Foligni who was under investigation in a \$950 million counterfeit bond deal out of New York. The Archbishop professed no knowledge of the counterfeit bonds, which were allegedly destined for the Vatican Bank, but described two unsuccessful attempts by Foligni to engage the Vatican Bank in other transactions totalling 100 and 300 million dollars. Both of these proposed transactions had been brought to Archbishop Marcinkus through other clerics in the Vatican rather than directly from Foligni. The Archbishop thought Foligni had implicated him in the counterfeit bonds movement, because he refused to enter the previous agreements. This information was corroborated in subsequent interviews at the Vatican and of Foligni. When asked about Michele Sindona, the Archbishop referred to Sindona as a good friend with whom he had had few financial dealings and described him as one of the wealthiest industrialists in Italy.

A confidential police report indicates [redacted]

b7D

[redacted] However, we have received no information from any of our sources which validates the newspaper reports that the Vatican Bank shares any liability for Calvi's or the Banco Ambrosiano's losses.

Beuch
O. B. Revell

Enclosure

1 - [redacted]
1 - [redacted]
1 - [redacted]

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b7C

A Spreading Mystery in Italian Bank Scandal



By PAUL LEWIS

Special to The New York Times

ROME, July 27 — The apparent suicide of an Italian financier, known as "God's banker," who was found hanged beneath London's Blackfriars Bridge last month, has made more mysterious a major Italian financial scandal in which the Vatican appears heavily involved.

The cost to the Roman Catholic Church could amount to several hundred million dollars.

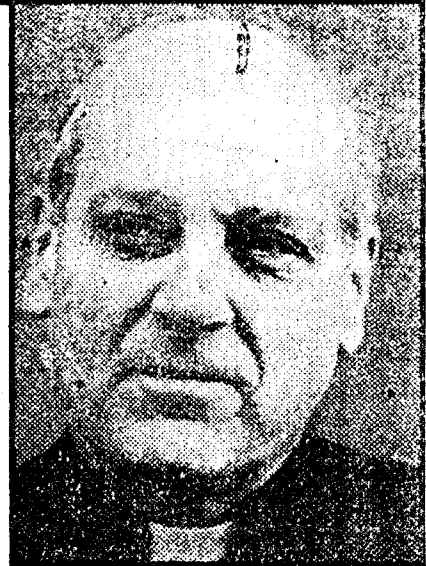
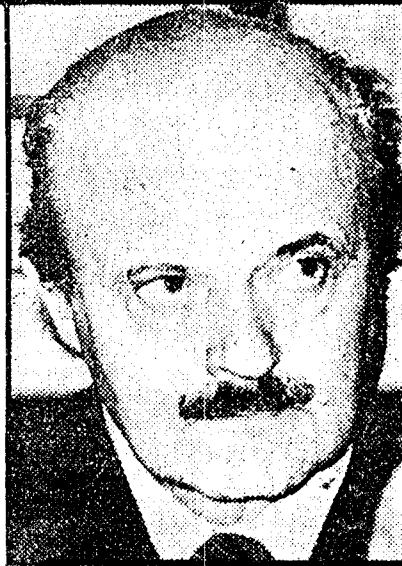
The scandal, centering on some \$1.4 billion in dubious loans by Banco Ambrosiano, Italy's largest privately owned banking group, is sending shock waves through the world of international finance and raising questions about current efforts to regulate the foreign operations of multinational banks.

Unusual Outside Inquiry

It has also strained Italy's relations with the Vatican, an autonomous governing unit in Rome. Under pressure from the Italian Government and concerned church leaders, Pope John Paul II has ordered an unusual outside investigation into the Vatican's finances by three Roman Catholic lay bankers. But the Italian Government wants the Vatican to accept a measure of financial responsibility for expected losses.

As usual in such scandals in Italy, there are also unverifiable reports that organized-crime figures and a recently discovered, anti-Government secret Masonic lodge are somehow involved.

There are also reports that Banco Ambrosiano may have been a target of



Associated Press; Camera Press

The apparent suicide of Roberto Calvi, left, president of Italy's Banco Ambrosiano, has made more mysterious a scandal involving that bank. Archbishop Paul C. Marcinkus, right, is the head of the Vatican's bank.

the British secret service, which is said to suspect it of financing Argentine arms purchases during the war over the Falkland Islands.

The Bank of Italy first became suspicious about Banco Ambrosiano in 1978 during a general crackdown on bank fraud, but immediately ran into a heavy political opposition.

Paolo Baffi, then the governor of the central bank, was arrested and eased out of his job. Mario Sarcinelli, the central bank's chief bank regulator, was imprisoned for a while, but now has re-

claimed a place in the Government as the chief civil servant in the Finance Ministry, helping to coordinate Treasury and central bank policies.

It was Mr. Baffi's successor, Carlo Ciampi, who finally succeeded in bringing the Ambrosiano scandal out into the open in what is widely perceived in Rome as a triumph for the Bank of Italy's political independence.

The hanged banker was Roberto Calvi, 61 years old. He had joined

Continued on Page D5, Column 1

Put More Wick and in Your Life Monadnock, Cattyhunk Island, and 17 more Northeastern destinations in The Great Weekend Escape Book Edition. 25 bookstores—ATVT.

KATHLEEN PHILLIPS (MS. PA.) HAPPY B.D. SOMEONE IN YOUR TOWN?

HAPPY 40TH BIRTHDAY FROM CHUCK AND SALLY...

Mystery and Questions Grow On Italian and Vatican Banks

Continued From Page 1, Section 1

Milan's Banco Ambrosiano as a clerk, worked his way up to become its president and, along the way, through a series of spectacular deals, transformed what had been a modest regional bank into a major financial power, with assets of \$18.7 billion in 1981.

Mr. Calvi, who was appealing a four-year jail sentence for illegal currency dealings, disappeared from his Rome apartment on June 10, after failing to block an inquiry by the Italian central bank into some \$1.4 billion of loans that banks he controlled had made to obscure, largely Panamanian, companies.

Five days after he vanished, his secretary jumped to her death from a window of the Milan bank. Mr. Calvi's body was found on June 18.

Collapse of an Empire

The financial panic caused by news of Mr. Calvi's death and the Bank of Italy's investigation provoked the collapse of his financial empire. Shares of companies his group had interests in fell 30 and 40 percent on the Milan stock exchange. After depositors rushed to withdraw their funds, Banco Ambrosiano itself had to be bailed out by a consortium of six major Italian banks hurriedly put together by the Bank of Italy.

Earlier this month, Banco Ambrosiano Holdings S.A., a Luxembourg subsidiary two-thirds of which is owned by Banco Ambrosiano, defaulted on some \$400 million of foreign loans and is now in receivership. The Bank of Italy has scheduled a London meeting Thursday of Ambrosiano creditors.

Last week, banking authorities in the Bahamas suspended for 30 days the license of Ambrosiano's Bahamas operation, Banco Ambrosiano Overseas Ltd., in order to "restore satisfactory liquidity to its operations," the Bahamian central bank said.

"The Ambrosiano affair makes everyone wonder about the Vatican's finances, but it really illustrates the fragility of the international banking system that we are all trying to preserve," said Guido Carli, a former governor of the Bank of Italy and now a prominent industrialist.

"It's partly the normal pathology of finance—a failure of controls," said Luigi Sparventa, an independent Italian parliamentarian and economics professor. "But Calvi's death—that suggests more sinister forces," he added.

Earlier this year, Carlo de Benedetti, head of Olivetti, the big Italian office machinery manufacturer and one of the country's leading businessmen, bought a significant stake in Banco Ambrosiano but sold it again within a few months saying that he was "appalled" by what he had found.

Close Vatican Ties

According to senior officials investigating the scandal who do not wish to be identified, the Banco Ambrosiano affair centers on the close but ambiguous relationship between Mr. Calvi and Archbishop Paul C. Marcinkus, a 60-year-old native of Cicero, Ill., who for the last 10 years has run the Vatican's free-wheeling but extremely secretive bank. The bank's formal name is Istituto per le Opere di Religione, the Institute for Religious Works, and is commonly referred to as I.O.R., its Italian initials.

Archbishop Marcinkus, a former chief of papal security, has been a controversial figure in financial circles because, as head of the Vatican bank, he was responsible for the Vatican's losing a reported \$30 million in the collapse in 1974 of the business empire of Michele Sindona, the Sicilian financier.

Mr. Sindona, 62, is now serving a 25-year jail sentence in New York in connection with the failure of the Franklin National Bank. Last week, an Italian magistrate ordered that Luigi Mennini, a layman who was second in command to Archbishop Marcinkus at the Vatican bank, should stand trial for his role in the Sindona scandal.

Extensive Lending

During 1980 and 1981, investigating officials say, the late Mr. Calvi mounted an extensive lending program to the Peruvian, Nicaraguan and Nassau subsidiaries of the Banco Ambrosiano group, using funds borrowed in the Eurodollar market that eventually totaled some \$1.2 billion to \$1.4 billion.

Most of this money was then lent to a series of Panamanian companies with names such as Bellatrix Inc., Manic Inc. and Astrolfine Inc., most of which are thought to have no more than mail addresses. The loans were granted roughly evenly by Banco Ambrosiano in Milan and by its Luxembourg subsidiary, Banco Ambrosiano Holdings.

But Mr. Calvi only lent these funds, investigators say, after receiving what bankers call "letters of comfort" from the Vatican bank. These letters, though vaguely worded, implied that

the Vatican had an interest in the companies and was aware of their borrowing plans. Although such letters do not constitute a legal guarantee that the signatory will repay the loans, they are often issued to reassure lenders that a borrowing company has reputable backing.

However the Vatican bank also demanded and received last August what investigators call a "counter letter" signed by Mr. Calvi and absolving it from all legal and financial responsibility for the loans to the Panamanian companies.

Investigating officials believe that the Vatican did have an interest in the Panamanian companies and probably controlled a number of them. But they are convinced that Mr. Calvi was also part owner and effective manager of most of the companies and used the money they borrowed to buy shares in Banco Ambrosiano and probably in other companies as well. By now, one senior official involved in the investigation estimates, the Panamanian companies own around 20 percent of Banco Ambrosiano.

'A House of Cards'

As interest rates soared last year and the dollar strengthened, the investigators surmise that Mr. Calvi found it increasingly difficult to service his dollar-denominated borrowings with the dividends from his shares, often paid in weak Italian lire. To remain solvent he was forced to borrow more. "It was a house of cards that was bound to fall down," one official said.

As his financial difficulties mounted, the investigators assume Mr. Calvi needed the Vatican letters of comfort to reassure skeptical directors of his own bank that the lending program was sound and also to satisfy foreign lenders.

The real mystery, these sources say, is why Archbishop Marcinkus agreed to provide the letters of comfort that he knew could be used to make lenders think the Panamanian companies enjoyed Vatican backing, while at the same time demanding a secret letter from Mr. Calvi absolving the Vatican of any financial responsibility for what must have been looking by then like an increasingly risky operation. "The Vatican must have known that the two letters could not be genuine at the same time; the deal was intended to defraud and to lead people astray," argued one senior Italian financial official.

There is speculation that the Archbishop may have agreed to the deal to

help out an old colleague and financial adviser since Banco Ambrosiano is regarded as one of Italy's "Catholic" banks with longstanding links to the Vatican. He may also have wished to protect the Vatican's own stake in Banco Ambrosiano, which is assumed to be far more than the 1.8 percent shown by the latest official figures.

There is also evidence, officials say, that Archbishop Marcinkus became alarmed by the arrangements he had made and refused to extend the letters of comfort, which expired in June. Mr. Calvi is believed to have asked him to do so at a meeting on June 8 or 9, just after the Banco Ambrosiano directors voted down their president by 11 to 3 and agreed to cooperate with the Bank of Italy's investigation.

On this occasion, officials say, the Vatican bank also turned down a Calvi plan to ease the Banco Ambrosiano group's mounting liquidity problems by buying a package of bank shares well above the market price.

The Archbishop, according to the Vatican press office, is not available for interviews or comment.

Moral Responsibility

In the view of the Italian Treasury Minister, Nino Andreatta, and of Mr. Campi, the central bank's governor, the Vatican acted improperly in issuing letters of comfort to Banco Ambrosiano at the same time as it asked the bank to absolve it from any responsibility for the Panamian companies. They believe it must therefore bear at least a moral responsibility for any losses incurred, according to senior officials.

Addressing Parliament earlier this month, Mr. Andreatta said that "the Government is expecting a clear acceptance of responsibility on the part of" the Vatican bank, "which in some operations with Banco Ambrosiano appears in the role of an effective partner."

In fact, the threefold aim of the Italian authorities, senior officials say, is to use the Banco Ambrosiano scandal to force Pope John Paul II to tighten financial controls in the Vatican, which is now experiencing its second major money scandal in eight years, to end the Vatican bank's ambiguous role under Italian law, and to make the Vatican pay part of any losses incurred by Banco Ambrosiano's Luxembourg holding company.

The six-bank rescue consortium is expected to cover foreign losses by the Milan-based parent bank. Representatives of the banks involved — Banca Nazionale del Lavoro, Banca Popolare di Milano, Istituto Bancario San Paolo di Torino, Istituto Mobiliare Italiano, Banca San Paolo-Brescia and Banca Agricola Commerciale di Reggio Emilia — met today in Rome, but issued no statement.

Commission Named

The Pope has already appointed a three-member lay commission to investigate the Vatican bank. It is made up of an American Roman Catholic, Joseph Brennan, a former chairman

of the Emigrant Savings Bank of New York; Philippe de Weert, a former president of Swiss banks Union Bank, and Carlo Ciriaco, an Italian civil servant with strong ties to the Vatican.

Since the commission members will be reporting directly to Agostino Cardinal Casaroli, the Vatican Secretary of State who is often referred to as the Pope's Prime Minister, the Pope's move has been widely seen as a sign that Archbishop Marcinkus may lose his post. However, some Italian bankers and officials feel that, with the exception of Mr. de Weert, the commission is an ineffective group that may not make much of an impact on the Vatican's ponderous administrative machinery.

Many qualified observers feel that the basic reason the Vatican bank became involved in the Ambrosiano scandal is that the Vatican, which has admitted running budget deficits of \$20 million to \$30 million a year in recent years, came to rely on its bank's profits to fill the gap. "I.O.R. was under pressure to perform and that can lead to mistakes," said Mr. Carli, the former Bank of Italy governor.

In recent years the cloak of secrecy that traditionally surrounds Vatican finances has been lifted a bit with the admission that the Holy See faces regular deficits, largely as a result of the falloff in the annual "Peter's pence" collections made in all churches for the personal use of the Pope.

However, little is known about the Vatican bank, except that in the 1970's it began to diversify its investment portfolio outside Italy, selling off major shareholdings in many Italian companies. It was this policy that brought it into contact with Mr. Sindona, who handled the tricky problem of selling large shareholdings profitably on Italy's thinly capitalized stock exchange.

\$20 Million in Profits

The bank is thought to make most of its profits from managing the funds of religious orders and churches around the world. A senior Italian official estimated that, with between \$1 billion and \$2 billion in deposits, the Vatican bank probably turns in profits of about \$20 million, or enough to make up for the Vatican's budget deficit. "Being essential has allowed I.O.R. to keep too much freedom," he said.

The bank, which is not subject to Italy's exchange controls and banking regulations, is also thought to have been used by Italian financiers as a conduit for smuggling money out of the country, officials said.

And the Italian Finance Ministry and central bank, besides wanting tighter disclosure over Vatican finances, would also like to see the Vatican bank's legal position changed, as a further way of keeping it under control. "The aim is one bank under Italian regulation for the Vatican's lire assets, and another offshore bank to handle foreign currency balances, with no leakage," a senior official explained.

Though estimates by the Italian central bank suggest that losses by Banco Ambrosiano's Luxembourg holding company might run as high as \$400 million to \$500 million. So far, officials say, the Vatican has declined to accept any responsibility. But they hope that the lay commission may recommend that it do so in order to safeguard the Vatican bank's financial reputation.

And the Chase Manhattan Bank, while denying in New York that any agreement has been reached, has expressed interest, officials here said, in arranging a \$500 million credit for the Vatican bank, once its finances are overhauled. In case the Vatican does provide some assistance, Italian officials hint that the Italian central bank may also offer help.

However, the Bank of Italy has already come under attack from private bankers in Britain and the United States for what they see as a wanton endangering of the international banking system by the central bank's refusal to bail out Banco Ambrosiano's Luxembourg holding company under the central bankers' concordat of 1974. This agreement was reached by major central banks, after the failure of West Germany's Herstatt Bank, at a meeting in Basel, Switzerland, and basically commits them to meet any liquidity shortage in national banks as well as in their overseas branches.

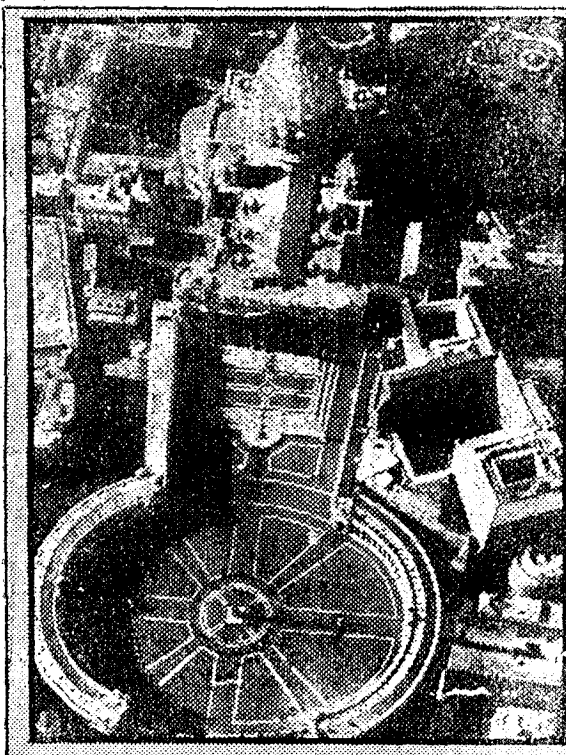
But the Italian central bank argues that Banco Ambrosiano Holdings is not a bank and is not even supervised by Luxembourg's banking authority. It also maintains that the holding company is not facing a temporary liquidity shortage that can be cleared up with a little help, but is fundamentally insolvent. "We are not bound to bail out insolvent banks," an official said.

Abundance of Rumors

On the darker side of the Banco Ambrosiano scandal, rumors abound but facts are scarce. Mr. Calvi was named last May as a member of the P-2 Masonic lodge, which was accused of trying to undermine Italy's parliamentary system. He denied belonging to the group, but it was inevitable that, when his body was found beneath the Blackfriars Bridge in London, the connection to the Masons — whose members wore black robes — set off further speculation.

Toward the end of his life, Mr. Calvi is said to have become increasingly involved with suspected underworld figures as his needs for ready cash increased. There are also rumors that he lent Peru \$200 million to buy Exocet missiles for the Argentine forces during the Falkland war and thus became a target for the British secret service.

In light of the rumors, officials at the normally staid Bank of Italy and Finance Ministry expressed amazement at last week's finding by a London coroner that Mr. Calvi did indeed commit suicide by hanging himself under the bridge. The common reaction was: "Why bother to go to London to do that?"



The Money Chain In the Ambrosiano Scandal

Banco Ambrosiano

A Milan-based private bank,
which controls . . .

Banco Ambrosiano Holdings

A Luxembourg holding
company, which controls . . .

Subsidiaries in Latin America and Bahamas

Which lent as much as \$1.4
billion to various companies,
mostly to . . .

Panamanian Companies

Which may have invested
the money in Ambrosiano
and other companies.

The Vatican's Bank

First endorsed the loans to
the Panamanian companies,
then secretly sought relief
from any liability. The
Vatican bank has equity in
Ambrosiano and may have
had interests in the
Panamanian companies.

Associated Press

Aerial view of part of Vatican City. Square building at right center is Apostolic Palace which houses Vatican's bank.